

Bluff Town Council Special Meeting
March 25, 2020
Bluff Community Center at 5:00 p.m.
190 N 3rd East P.O. Box 324
Bluff UT 84512
435-672-9990

Regular meetings are held the first three Tuesdays of every month at 6:00 p.m. at the Bluff Community Center. Requests to be on the agenda may be submitted in writing to Ann Leppanen (ann@townofbluff.org) at least 4 days before the meeting. Agendas and minutes are posted at:
townofbluff.org and audio, in addition, at the Utah Public Notice Website

Draft Minutes

The meeting started at 5:00 p.m.

Roll Call Mayor Ann K. Leppanen, Luanne Hook, Brant Murray, Jim Sayers, Linda Sosa

1. Discussion and Vote on 'Shelter in Place' to Include Discussion of Policy for Bluff, Essential Services, and Other Government Responses

Leppanen explained the purpose of this meeting is to decide who can do business in town during this health crisis, what the parameters for long and short-term rentals are, and trying to look at the whole picture with public health and safety being paramount. Southeastern Utah Public Health has not yet made a County wide directive to shutdown businesses. Leppanen is in conversation with Chris McAnany about the draft policy for Bluff, similar to Moab but not as strict, that limits open businesses to essential services, which will be defined in the document. Leppanen has been to recent BOB meetings, they are very concerned about business and economic livelihood for the Town and their employees and their top concern is public safety. Jen Davila conveyed that BOB is in favor of a solid close of non-essential businesses. Sayers suggested stopping all short-term rentals, those defined as less than thirty days. He noted out that without testing

available to us the only tool we have is social distancing. We have limited medical resources but a population with medical issues. Dawn Dilego pointed out there is no such thing as a totally self-contained RV, camper or cabin. There is interaction somewhere, such as supplies and/or gas. We do not have the resources for people camping or hiking if someone is hurt. Leppanen reported in yesterday's briefing Sheriff Torgerson said Grand County will be enforcing no camping and those people will end up in Bluff and we have only one BLM ranger here. Hook is willing to close the laundromat, even though it is considered essential, for two weeks and then revisit. Leppanen suggested two week increments for assessing closure. Jared Berrett brought up the difficulties of knowing, as a motel owner, when to start taking reservations and suggested the Council revisit in 30 days but let businesses know as soon as possible if there is a change. Davila asked for 48 hours to be able to notify guests of room cancellations. Leppanen wants the draft to include possible health workers as essential. Dawn Dilego is working with her on a plan for local Covid-19 cases to try to stay ahead of issues, since the State and County are not addressing it yet.

Murray motioned in order to protect public health a ban on all non-essential businesses including lodging, RV parks, camping, and Airbnb's for two-week increments for six weeks, 45 days, subject to review by the Council at any time, starting immediately for new reservations and Saturday morning, the 28th, for guests already here to leave. Sayers seconded and discussion included details for the motion. No overnight rentals. No less than 30-day rentals, Use Moab's definition for essential workers and the Council can revisit if needed. Leppanen, Murray, Hook, Sosa, and Sayers voted in favor. It is effective immediately and Leppanen will work with McAnany to get the policy out.

2. Discussion and Vote on Appointment of Bluff Airport Manager

Leppanen reminded the Council that this was reviewed at the last meeting and Jim Hook was appointed interim manager at that time. Sayers motioned that Jim Hook become airport manager, Murray seconded and Leppanen, Murray, Sayers and Sosa voted in favor, Hook abstained.

3. Other

Hook suggested the April 2nd CIB public hearing be canceled and rescheduled, Sayers agreed there are not the means for an electronic hearing. Hook motioned the April 2nd hearing be canceled and rescheduled and for Sayers be given authority to work with the CIB on the presentation., Murray seconded and Leppanen, Sosa, Hook, Murray, and Sayers voted in favor.

The 45-day period ends May 9th.

Adjourned at 5:52 p.m.

Linda Sosa Recording Officer.